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## Vietnam

## Biotechnology

## Master Scheme of Strengthen Management Over Genetically Modified Organisms

2007

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**Report Highlights:** The report provides an un-official translation of Vietnam's recently approved *the Master Scheme to Strengthen the Management of Genetically Modified Organisms until 2010 in order to Implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*.

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## Report summary

On July 10<sup>th</sup> 2007, Vietnam's Prime Minister signed Decision No.102/2007/QĐ-TTg to promulgate *The Master Scheme of Strengthen Capacities on Biosafety Management over GMOs and its Products until 2010 in order to Implement Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety*. The Scheme assigns relevant ministries and agencies with specific tasks and due dates in order to speed up implementation of the Government's *Bio-safety Regulation on Management of GMOs and GM Products* that was approved in 2005 (see VM5065) as well as its *National Action Plan on Bio-diversity*. The Master Scheme was effective 15 days after the date of signing.

**THE PRIME MINISTER**  
**Number: 102/2007/QĐ-TTg**

**THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**  
**Independence-Freedom-Happiness**

### DECISION

On the approval of the " Master Scheme of strengthening capacities on biosafety management over genetically modified organisms and products and goods originating from genetically modified organisms until 2010 in order to implement Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety"

#### THE PRIME MINISTER

Pursuant to the Law on Government Organization dated December 25th 2001;  
Pursuant to the Law on Environmental Protection dated November 29th 2005;  
Pursuant to Decision No. 212/2005/QĐ-TTg dated August 26th 2005 of the Prime Minister on the Regulations on management of genetically modified organisms; products, goods originating from genetically modified organisms;  
Pursuant to Decision No. 79/2007/QĐ-TTg dated May 31st 2007 of the Prime Minister on approval of the "National Action Plan on biological diversity until 2010 and orientation toward 2020 in order to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety";

At the proposal of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment,

### DECIDES:

**ARTICLE 1.** To approve the Master Scheme of "Strengthening capacity on biosafety management over genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and products and goods originating from GMOs until 2010 in order to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" (hereinafter referred to as the Master Scheme) with the following key contents:

## I VIEWPOINTS

1. Biosafety management is an indivisible task of a process of research and development (R&D) of modern biotechnology. Biosafety management shall contribute to promoting the development of modern biotechnology to obtain new achievements while providing measures that ensure the strict control and management of possible risks occurred during the development process with the view to protecting the human health, environment and biological diversity and contributing to the country's sustainable development.
2. Risk prevention is the leading principle in biosafety management over GMOs, GMO-originated products and goods.
3. Biosafety management must suit country's socio-economic conditions and meet

requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other relevant international conventions and agreements to which Vietnam is a party.

4. Biosafety management requires bringing into full play the existing material and technical infrastructure, and the human resources with professional knowledge and skills.

5. International cooperation on biosafety should be expanded with other countries in the world with the view to learning experiences, attracting investments and strengthening capacities on biosafety management of the country.

## II OBJECTIVES

1. To develop, promulgate and complete the system of legal documents, mechanisms and policies on biosafety management.

2. To develop and complete a comprehensive organizational system on biosafety management from the central to local levels.

3. To develop and upgrade the material and technical infrastructure toward advancement and modernization; to ensure the availability of laboratories in all three regions of the country and that they are sufficient for analyzing, identifying and accurately detecting GMOs, GMO-originated products and goods; providing proper risk assessment, successfully managing and controlling the risks, effectively meeting requirements of the international integration; to develop and apply the national information system on biosafety.

4. To equip the human resources of different ministries, agencies and localities with necessary professional knowledge and skills, sufficient for meeting requirements of the tasks of biosafety management.

5. To raise the public awareness on biosafety concerning GMOs and GMO-originated products and goods.

## III SCOPE

The Master Scheme focuses on strengthening capacities (state management, professional and technical management) of biosafety management over GMOs and GMO-originated products, goods from now until 2010.

## IV MAIN TASKS

In order to follow the viewpoints and implement the objectives of the Master Scheme, attention should be paid to the following key tasks, projects and components:

In order to follow the viewpoints and implement the objectives of the Master Scheme, attention should be paid to the following key tasks, projects and components:

### 1 Development and completion of the system of legal documents, mechanisms and policies on biosafety management

a) **Development and promulgation of "Regulations on field trials, risk assessment, risk management and granting of biosafety certificates for genetically modified crops":**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Justice;  
**Promulgating agency and time:** Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; in December 2007.

**b) Development and promulgation of "Regulations on biosafety management in scientific research and technological development concerning GMOs, GMO originated products, goods.**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Science and Technology;

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice;

**Promulgating agency and time:** Ministry of Science and Technology, in the 1st quarter of 2008.

**c) Development and promulgation of "Regulations on export, import, storage and transportation of GMOs and GMO-originated products and goods:**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Trade

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Finance (General Department of Customs), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Trade, Vietnam's Academy of Sciences and Technologies;

**Promulgating agency and time:** Ministry of Science and Technology, in the 1st quarter of 2008.

**d) Development and promulgation of "Regulations on food safety and food hygiene management of foods originating from GMOs":**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Health;

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Finance (General Department of Customs), Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Justice;

**Promulgating agency and time:** Ministry of Health, in the 1st quarter of 2008

**e) Development and promulgation of "Regulations on biosafety management over activities of production of, doing business in, and providing services relating to GMO originated crops and food for livestock":**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice;

**Promulgating agency and time:** Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in the 2nd quarter of 2008.

**g) Development and promulgation of "Regulations on biosafety management of microorganisms"**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Science and Technology

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Justice.

**Promulgating agency and time:** Ministry of Science and Technology in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2008

**h) Development and submission of "Law on Biological Diversity which includes a Chapter on Biosafety Management over GMOs and GMO-originated products, goods and a draft decree of the Government on detailed regulations and guidelines on the implementation of this Chapter":**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

**Time of submission to the Government and the National Assembly:** in the 4th quarter of 2008.

## **2 Creation and development of resources for biosafety management**

**a) Component project of "Strengthening material and technical infrastructure, arranging for appraising and certifying laboratories belonging to research institutes and universities, that are capable in: analyzing, identifying and detecting GMOs and GMO-originated products, goods; assessing, managing and monitoring risk caused by GMOs and GMO-originated products and goods":**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Science and Technology

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Industry, of Scientific and Technical Organizations, Vietnam's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vietnam's Trade Union, Vietnam's Academy of Sciences and Technologies.

**Approving agency and time:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in the 2nd quarter of 2008.

**b) Component project of "Training professional staff to acquire sufficient capacities and skills in doing field trial, risk assessment, risk management, analyzing and determining GMOs and GMO-originated products and goods":**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Education and Training

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Trade and Vietnam's Academy of Sciences and Technologies.

**Promulgating agency and time:** Ministry of Education and Training, in the 2nd quarter of 2008.

**c) Component project of "Developing models for field trials, risk assessment, risk management and monitoring of genetically modified plants":**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Health and Vietnam's Academy of Sciences and Technologies.

**Promulgating agency and time:** Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in the 2nd quarter of 2008.

**d) Component project of "Enhancing the investments in material infrastructure, equipments and facilities for the national focal point, line units of relevant ministries that are responsible for biosafety management in the respective fields":**

microorganisms":

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Science and Technology;

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Justice;

**Promulgating agency and time:** Ministry of Science and Technology, in the 3rd Quarter of 2008.

**e) Component project of "Strengthening capacities of the state management of biosafety for managery staff working in ministries, agencies and at local levels"**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice;

**Promulgating agency and time:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in the 2nd quarter of 2008.

### **3 Raising public awareness on biosafety**

**Component scheme on "Raising public awareness and strengthening the social capacities on supervising biosafety of GMOs and GMO-originated products and goods"**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Justice, the Voice of Vietnam, Vietnam's Television, Vietnam's Union of Scientific and Technical Organizations, Vietnam's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vietnam's Trade Union, Vietnam's Academy of Science and Technologies.

Approving agency and time: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2008

### **4 International Cooperation on Biosafety**

**Component Scheme of "Expanding and strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation relationships with other countries in the world with the view to learning experiences, attracting investments and enhancing the country's capacities of biosafety management":**

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;

**Collaborating agencies:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Justice;

**Approving agency and time:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in the 1st quarter of 2008.

**Leading agency:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

## V SOME KEY SOLUTIONS

### **1 To accelerate the consolidation of organizations involving in the biosafety management; to advocate, educate and raise the public awareness on biosafety**

- a) The ministries which are assigned to undertake tasks and powers in biosafety management as stipulated in Decision No. 212/QĐ-TTg dated August 26th 2005 of the Prime Minister on the Regulations on Biosafety management of GMOs; products, goods originating from GMOs shall have to assign focal units and nominate staff to be responsible for biosafety management in their respective fields;
- b) To establish the National Council for Biosafety, sectoral councils for biosafety and local councils for biosafety in some research institutes and universities that have activities closely relating to biosafety issues. The councils shall advise leaders at different levels on biosafety management.
- c) To enhance the public's avocation, education and awareness raising on the risks that modern biotechnology, and especially GMOs and GMO-originated products and goods may bring about in order to make the public involve in biosafety management control in an active manner.

### **2 To increase and diversify investment sources for biosafety management**

- a) To diversify and use investment sources in an effective manner; To gradually increase the state budget investment in biosafety management; To give priority to human resource development and enhancement of the material and technical infrastructure, equipments and machinery for analyzing, identifying and detecting, risk assessment, management and monitoring of risks related to GMOs and GMO originated products and goods;
- b) The total cost for the full implementation of all contents of the Master Scheme shall be estimated based on the cost breakdown for each specific task, component scheme and project that are approved by competent authorities. Annually, based on the proposal of relevant ministries, agencies and localities and of Ministry of Planning and Investment and Ministry of Finance, the State shall allocate budget for the implementation of the contents of the Master Scheme. The budget shall be gradually increased to ensure the effective implementation.
- c) Apart from the State budget, it is necessary to promote, attract and make use of other investment sources through bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation projects; to actively mobilize capital from foreign and domestic enterprises, organizations and individuals investing in biosafety management;

### **3 To promote the scientific researches, technological transfer and application for biosafety management**

- a) To promote scientific researches, transfer and application of new technologies, and advanced techniques for biosafety management; to concentrate in studies of methods that allow to quickly, accurately and effectively analyze, identify and determine GMOs and GMO-originated products and goods;
- b) To promote studies of scientific basis, to summarize practices with the view to effectively implementing risk assessment and risk management and control over GMOs and GMO-originated products and goods.

### **4 To enhance international cooperation**

To enhance international cooperation in order to make the best use of assistance from countries at a developed biotechnology level and with good experiences in biosafety management through effective development and implementation of bilateral and



multilateral programs, schemes and projects in this area.

## VI IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment: in cooperation with relevant ministries, agencies and localities, shall take the lead in the arrangement to ensure the effective implementation of all contents of the Master Scheme within the scheduled time frame; the Ministry shall also successfully implement its portion in the Master Scheme, and submit annual reports to the Prime Minister.
2. Ministries of: Agriculture and Rural Development, Industry, Science and Technology, Fishery, Health, Education and Training, Planning and Investment, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Trade, Justice; and Vietnam's Academy of Sciences and Technologies shall be responsible for leading or cooperating with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in implementing effectively their respective tasks in the Master Scheme in accordance with their functions, tasks, powers and management mandate within the scheduled timeframe.
3. Ministries of: Planning and Investment, and Finance shall be responsible for balancing, allocating and giving guidance to Ministries, agencies and localities on preparing and disbursing of budget with the view to implementing their tasks in the Master Scheme with effectiveness and within the scheduled timeframe.
4. People's Committees of centrally affiliated provinces and cities shall be responsible for cooperating with relevant ministries and agencies in directing the development and promulgation of specific regulations on biosafety management in their respective areas and implementing the biosafety management in their respective areas.

**ARTICLE 2.** The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment shall be responsible for giving guidelines and implementing this Master Scheme in an effective manner.

**ARTICLE 3.** This Decision shall come into force after 15 days from the signing date. Ministers, Heads of ministerial level agencies, Heads of the Government-affiliated agencies, Chairmen of People's Committees of Centrally affiliated provinces and cities are responsible for executing this Decision./.

**THE PRIME MINISTER**  
**Nguyen Tan Dung**  
**(signed and sealed)**